2 Pa. Employees Also Get House Pay

By Jack Anderson

Rep. Thomas E. Morgan (D-Pa.), the esteemed House Foreign Relations chairman and a power in the backrooms of Washington, has two Pennsylvania state employees on his House payroll to do political chores for him.

Even as he skillfully steers foreign aid to nations abroad Morgan directs other U.S. Treasury checks to two political errand boys at home, John (Jake) Morgan and Thomas H. Boyd. Both men also draw full-time salaries from the state of Pennsylvania.

In other words, the taxpayers are helping to pay Morgan's campaign costs while his opponents must do without federal aid.

The 50-year-old Jake Morgan, no relation to the congressman, draws $6,717 from the U.S. Treasury and another $9,454 from Pennsylvania.

He is listed as a "clerk" for the House of Representatives and as a construction inspector for the Pennsylvania General State Authority. We reached him at a construction site and questioned him about his "clerical" duties.

"I'm tired of all you g—d— newspapers bothering people!" he roared. "Why don't you get a real job instead of sitting around on your ——!" Then he slammed down the telephone.

Morgan's other political aide, 66-year-old Thomas Boyd, collects $9,500 a year from Pennsylvania as a field auditor and $2,860 from the House of Representatives.

"Sometimes," he acknowledged, "we have his office all filled up with political clientele and patients and people wanting help when he gets in on the week-end."

Morgan also talked amiably to my associate, Les Whitten, about his two political henchmen.

"They're part of the political organization," Morgan explained. "Certainly they take part in political activities, but they have their field work—Veterans Administration, Social Security, black lung, and so on. I couldn't see how there would be any conflicts of interest."

Prisoner of Saigon

From time to time, we have reported on the fate of Truong Dinh Dzu, who was sentenced to five years of hard labor in South Vietnam after giving President Thieu a scare in the 1967 elections.

Dzu called for establishing a coalition government and negotiating an end to the war. He came in a strong second in the presidential election.

Alarmed, President Thieu sent Dzu to jail on trumped-up charges. This would be equivalent to imprisoning Hubert Humphrey after he lost to Richard Nixon in 1968.

Last year, we reported that Dzu had been refused medical treatment in prison for a heart ailment. The U.S. mission made inquiries and was permitted to visit him.

As a result, the Saigon government sent Dzu to a hospital for a complete medical examination and notified the U.S. mission that Dzu would be released a year early.

This report was passed on to the White House which informed inquirers "that Mr. Dzu recently received a one-year reduction in sentence and is to be released on May 1, 1972."

May 1 has now come and gone. But Truong Dinh Dzu is still in prison.

Washington Whirl

WHO'S KIDDING—Adm. Isaac Kidd, the gung-ho new Navy material commander, has distributed among his subordinates 2,500 picture cubes with his picture on three sides. For awhile, he also plastered the walls with enormous red posters featuring his heroic countenance and the legend: "What have you done for the fleet today?" For sailors at sea beyond sight of his posters, the admiral dispatched cassette tapes bearing patriotic messages in the master's own voice. All this self-promotion, of course, was financed by the taxpayers.

KLEINDIENST'S LAW FIRM—Four years ago, the Phoenix law firm of Shimmel, Hill, Kleindienst and Bishop had no Washington office. But that was before Richard Kleindienst left the firm to become deputy Attorney General. Suddenly, the firm was in great demand in Washington. It now has a full-time staff of five attorneys to handle its flourishing practice in the capital.

GAS INCREASES—We have written how Federal Power Commission Chairman John Nassikas, the natural gas lobby's best friend in Washington, has pushed through gas rate increases on grounds that this will encourage exploration for more gas. Yet, the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management, in a draft environmental statement, seems to side with the housewives of America against the pronouncements of Nassikas and his industry cronies. "There yet is no positive indication," says the Interior Department office, "that such price increases have resulted in additional exploration and production."

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